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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
09/273,407	03/22/99	OPARA	5405.003
		E EXAMINER	223
020792 MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH NC 27627		HM12/0620	ART UNIT 4.000, D
		DOCKETED By <i>[Signature]</i> Date <i>10/20/00</i>	PAPER NUMBER 7
DATE MAILED: 06/20/00			

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
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OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/22/99
 This action is FINAL.
 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-6 / is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 Claim(s) 1-6 / are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
 The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
 The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
 The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 received.
 received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 received in this national stage application from the international Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

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Claims in the application are 1-61.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under
35 U.S.C. 121:

5 I. Claims 1-13 and 30-61 drawn to methods of culturing cells and
 microencapsulating cells and/or culturing encapsulated cells,
 classified in class 435, subclass 382.

II. Claims 14-29, drawn to a method of treating cells by
 cryopreserving the cells, thawing the cells and encapsulating
 the cells, classified in class 435, subclass 182.

10 The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

The invention of Group II requires cryopreserving that is not
required in Group I, and Group I requires a step or combination of steps
not required in Group II. The invention of each group can be carried out
separate from and without carrying out the invention of the other group.

15 Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above
and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their
different classification, restriction for examination purposes as
indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be
20 complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even
though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications
from the examiner should be directed to David M. Naff whose telephone
number is (703) 308-0520. The examiner can normally be reached on
25 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday from about 8:30 AM to about 6:00
PM.